

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4-9 are pending. In the present amendment, Claims 1, 4, and 8 are currently amended and Claims 2 and 3 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 3, lines 8-20, at page 9, lines 2-19, at page 14, line 23 to page 15, line 9, in Figures 4 and 5, and in original Claims 2 and 3. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1, 5, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Unruh (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0162395) in view of Dow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,038,717, hereinafter “Dow”) and Nakae et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0166829, hereinafter “Nakae”); Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Unruh, Dow, and Nakae, and further in view of Mak (U.S. Patent No. 2004/0085289); Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Unruh, Dow, and Nakae, and further in view of Harada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,072,476, hereinafter “Harada”); Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Unruh, Dow, and Nakae, and further in view of Shiono et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0188001, hereinafter “Shiono”) and Fleck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,977,811, hereinafter “Fleck”); and Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Unruh, Dow, and Nakae, and further in view of Blumberg (U.S. Patent No. 6,799,303).

Regarding the rejections of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is noted that amended Claim 1 no longer recites the claim elements noted in sections 2 and 5 of the Office Action. Therefore, it is respectfully

requested that the rejections of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

Turning now to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections and traverse these rejections, as discussed below.

It is noted that Claim 1 is hereby amended to include the subject matter from canceled Claims 2 and 3. Accordingly, amended Claim 1 recites:

An information processing apparatus, comprising:

a display;

a keyboard including alphanumeric keys each allocated to one character in a first input mode, wherein at least one of the alphanumeric keys of the keyboard is allocated to more than one character in the second input mode and is provided on a second side of the apparatus;

at least one cursor key configured to select a word generated by a predetermined program, wherein the at least one cursor key is provided on a first side of the apparatus, opposite to the second side, between the display and the keyboard;

a common button configured to be both an activation button to activate the predetermined program and a determination button to determine the word selected from candidates appearing on the display according to a number of times a selected alphanumeric key is pressed in a second input mode while the predetermined program is activated, wherein the common button is provided on the first side of the apparatus between the display and the keyboard; and

a pointing device configured to move a pointer appearing on the display in a desired direction, wherein the pointing device is adjacent to the common button,

wherein the at least one cursor key includes a plurality of cursor keys arranged around a perimeter of the pointing device and the common button is arranged outside a perimeter of the plurality of cursor keys.

The information processing apparatus recited in amended Claim 1 includes a pointing device and a plurality of cursor keys arranged around a perimeter of the pointing device.

Additionally, the common button is arranged outside a perimeter of the plurality of cursor keys. Thus, the space on the face of the apparatus can be used effectively and the apparatus can be miniaturized.¹ It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 1.

The Office Action, in section 8 on page 8, states that “Unruh, as modified by Dow and Nakae, fails to teach a pointing device configured to move a pointer appearing on the display in a desired direction, wherein the pointing device is adjacent to the common button.” The Office Action also states that “Unruh, as modified by Dow and Nakae; however, fails to teach the cursor keys arranged around a perimeter of the pointing device and the common button is arranged outside a perimeter of the plurality of cursor keys.” The Office Action relies on Mak to cure the above-noted deficiencies of Unruh as modified by Dow and Nakae.

Mak describes a phone including a display 300 and that navigation of the display 300 is achieved using directional keys 306a-306b and 308a-308b, or a joystick 310, or both.² The Office Action equates the joystick 310 described in Mak to the claimed pointing device and equates the directional keys 306a-306b and 308a-308b described in Mak to the claimed plurality of cursor keys.³

However, it is respectfully submitted that Mak does not disclose or suggest that “the at least one cursor key includes a plurality of cursor keys arranged around a perimeter of the pointing device and the common button is arranged outside a perimeter of the plurality of cursor keys,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Instead, as can be seen in Figure 3 of Mak, there are **no keys** arranged outside of a perimeter of the directional keys 306a-306b and 308a-308b. Further, as can be seen in Figure 1 of Unruh, there is not enough unused space on the keypad 3 of Unruh to add the pointer 310

¹ See the original specification, for example, at page 3, lines 8-20 and in Figure 4.

² See Mak, at paragraphs [0034] and [0038] and in Figure 3.

³ See the Office Action, at section 8 on page 8.

and the directional keys 306a-306b and 308a-308b of Mak. Further, even if the pointer 310 and the directional keys 306a-306b and 308a-308b of Mak could be added to the keypad 3 of Unruh, a common button would not necessarily be arranged outside a perimeter of the directional keys 306a-306b and 308a-308b.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of the pointer 310 and the directional keys 306a-306b and 308a-308b described in Mak with the telephone 1 described in Unruh as modified by Dow and Nakae is not proper and the rejection should be withdrawn. However, even assuming the rejection is proper, it is respectfully submitted that the combination does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1, and all claims dependent thereon, as unpatentable over Unruh, Dow, and Nakae, and further in view of Mak be withdrawn.

Amended Claim 8 is dependent on Claim 1 and thus is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1. Further, amended Claim 8 recites, in part, that “the common button is configured to select more than one word from the list at a time.” As can be seen in Figures 6-17 of Unruh, Unruh only describes selecting a single word from a list at a time. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 8 further patentably defines over the cited references.

Amended Claim 4 is dependent on Claim 1 and thus is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Harada does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Unruh, Dow, and Nakae, and further in view of Mak. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 4 patentably defines over Unruh, Dow, Nakae, and Mak, and further in view of Harada.

Further, amended Claim 4 recites, in part, that “the common button, the switch button, and the confirmation key form a ring that surrounds the plurality of cursor keys and the

pointing device.” Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not disclose or suggest that the common button, the switch button, and the confirmation key form a ring that surrounds the plurality of cursor keys and the pointing device. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 4 further patentably defines over the cited references.

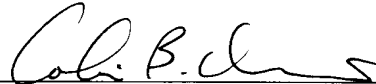
Regarding the rejection of Claim 6, it is noted that Claim 6 is dependent on Claim 1 and thus is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Shiono and Fleck do not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Unruh, Dow, and Nakae, and further in view of Mak. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 6 patentably defines over Unruh, Dow, Nakae, and Mak, and further in view of Shiono and Fleck.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 9, it is noted that Claim 9 is dependent on Claim 1 and thus is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Blumberg does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Unruh, Dow, and Nakae, and further in view of Mak. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 9 patentably defines over Unruh, Dow, Nakae, and Mak, and further in view of Blumberg.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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